

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
-----030240 121095 /63
R 022253Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2635

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 01210

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CA, OVIP (WARREN, J. H.)
SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR WARREN

REF: OTTAWA 611 AND 655

1. SUMMARY: SPECULATION ON SUCCESSOR TO AMBASSADOR WARREN
GIVES EDGE TO POLITICAL (AS OPPOSED TO CIVIL SERVICE)
CANDIDATE, MOST LIKELY BEING JEAN-LUC PEPIN. END SUMMARY

2. CONFIRMATION OF AMBASSADOR WARREN'S IMPENDING DEPARTURE
FROM WASHINGTON (REFTELS) HAS PROMPTED CONSIDERABLE SPE-
CULATION WITHIN GOC AND MEDIA AS TO HIS PROBABLE SUCCESSOR
OUR SOURCES SUGGEST CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IS AS FOLLOWS:

3. TIMING--REPORTEDLY PRIME MINISTER WISHES TO REACH
EARLY DECISION SUCCESSOR AND ANNOUNCE SAME, EVEN THOUGH
CHANGE-OVER MAY NOT OCCUR UNTIL EARLY SUMMER.

4. CIVIL SERVICE VERSUS POLITICAL APPOINTMENT--MOST IN-
FORMED SOURCES GIVE EDGE TO POLITICAL APPOINTMENT, CITING
ON BALANCE TWO ADVANTAGES FOR THAT CHOICE: (A) SENDING
CONFIDANT OF PRIME MINISTER TO ENHANCE PERSONAL RELATION-
SHIP ESTABLISHED BETWEEN TRUDEAU AND PRESIDENT CARTER;
AND (B) FINDING APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENT FOR ONE OF SEVERAL
SENIOR POLITICIANS WHO NEED TO BE PLACED. IN ADDITION,
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TRUDEAU MAY WISH TO BE REPRESENTED IN WASHINGTON BY FRANCO-
PHONE, AS GESTURE TO QUEBEC AND IN LINE WITH RECENT POLICY
OF ALTERNATING WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT BETWEEN FRANCOPHONES
AND ANGLOPHONES. IT HAPPENS THAT LIKELY POLITICAL CANDI-
DATES ARE MOSTLY FRANCOPHONES, WHEREAS CIVIL SERVICE CAN-
DIDATES ARE ANGLOPHONES.

5. POLITICAL CANDIDATES--MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ARE:

(A) JEAN-LUC PEPIN, DIRECTOR OF ANTI-INFLATION BOARD; (B) PAUL GERILAJOE, RECENTLY RESIGNED AS PRESIDENT OF CIDA; (C) GERARD PELLETIER, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO PARIS; AND (D) MITCHELL SHARP, LIBERAL PARTY ELDER STATESMAN. OF THESE, STRONGEST CANDIDATE APPEARS TO BE PEPIN, NOT ONLY FOR HIS EXPERIENCE AND PERSONAL QUALITIES, BUT BECAUSE--IN CONTRAST TO SHARP --HIS DEPARTURE FROM OTTAWA WOULD NOT VACATE SEAT IN PARLIAMENT WITH ATTENDANT NECESSITY FOR BY-ELECTION, WHICH LIBERALS WOULD WISH TO AVOID.

6. CIVIL SERVICE CANDIDATES--ASSUMPTION SEEMS TO BE THAT ANY TOP-FLIGHT CIVIL SERVANT WOULD BE ELIGIBLE, BUT MOST PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BACKGROUND, WHO INCLUDE: (A) ALAN GOTLIEB, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION; (B) ARTHUR KROEGER, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS; AND (C) BLAIR SEABORN, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. AT EXTAFF, BASIL ROBINSON APPARENTLY HAS TAKEN HIMSELF OUT OF THE RUNNING, BUT PETER TOWE, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE INTER ALIA FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS (AND FORMER MINISTER WASHINGTON) WOULD BE PLAUSIBLE, THOUGH HE HAS TOLD US HE THINKS IT UNLIKELY HE COULD GET THE JOB. ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY KLAUS GOLDSCHLAG HAS ALSO BEEN MENTIONED.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE IMPRESSION PEPIN CURRENTLY HOLDS INSIDE TRACK. IN OUR VIEW, HE HAS PERSONAL QUALITIES AND ATTRIBUTES TRUDEAU IS PROBABLY LOOKING FOR, INCLUDING THOSE WHICH WOULD MAKE HIM SUCCESS ON WASHINGTON SCENE: GUTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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HUSTLE, EXCELLENT RAPPORT WITH PRIME MINISTER, CONGENIAL PERSONALITY, FLUENT COMMAND OF BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH. WE CONSIDER HIM BY FAR THE STRONGEST OF CANDIDATES NOTED ABOVE. (SHARP MIGHT ONCE HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT CHOICE BUT DUE TO AGE HE SEEMS TO HAVE ENTERED LESS ACTIVE PHASE.) OF CIVIL SERVICE CANDIDATES, ANY ONE OF THOSE MENTIONED COULD DO ACCEPTABLE JOB. GOTLIEB AND KROEGER ARE THE BRIGHTEST, BUT FOR PERSONAL REASONS MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO UNDERTAKE POSITION WITH SUCH HEAVY REPRESENTATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, AMBASSADORS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA01210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770072-0680
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703101/aaaadlfd.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e14088ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OTTAWA 611
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2939960
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLACEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR WARREN
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CA, (WARREN, J H), (PEPIN, JEAN-LUC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e14088ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009